

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

THE UNITED STATES-CANADA BORDER NEEDS TO SAFELY RE-OPEN

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, for 34 years my community of Buffalo, New York, and our Canadian neighbors in Fort Erie, Ontario, would mark the first week of July with the Friendship Festival.

This event that invites citizens of both countries to cross our shared border and celebrate with music, culture, food, and festivities highlights the strong and lasting bond between the United States and Canada.

There will be no cross-border celebration this year on Canada Day and Independence Day. Not due to the pandemic, but due to the failure of both countries to plan for a safe reopening of the U.S.-Canadian border.

For friends and families living along the northern border, crossing isn't an annual event, it is a way of life.

Vaccines provide the bridge that allows people to come together again.

We need leadership to open those bridges and let us reunite.

THE ORIGIN OF COVID-19 MUST BE INVESTIGATED

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a matter that is incredibly important to our national security, our public health knowledge, and preparing for the next pandemic.

It has been well over a year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our country has closed down in the face of a public health crisis the likes of which we have not seen in decades.

And to this day, we still do not have a definitive answer regarding the origins of COVID-19. Getting to the bottom of how this virus originated and how it spread across the globe should be one of our top priorities in Congress.

Today, the Republican members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis will hold a forum to discuss the origins of this virus. This is not a partisan issue, and every Member of this body should want to know

where this virus came from and every member of the select subcommittee should be in attendance.

As I said earlier, finding the origins is important to our national security, public health knowledge, and preparing for the next pandemic.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD BE A PRIORITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Joe Biden claimed a bipartisan agreement on infrastructure. On the surface this sounds like great news. Unfortunately, quickly following this new-found agreement, President Biden crushed the bipartisan bill by mandating wasteful Green New Deal borrowing, destroying jobs.

Improving America's infrastructure should be a priority and to delay it for partisan reasons is another insult to the American people. The President's voters are misled with an absurd interpretation of infrastructure.

This chaotic mentality has been exhibiting a reversal from the bipartisan President Biden promised when running for President. Dishonoring promises and undermining bipartisan negotiations, the administration should actually be focused on the needs of the American people instead of destroying jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we should never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JEFFERY ROBERT HALTER

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Jeffery Robert Halter. Not only was he my neighbor and a family friend, but he

was also a devoted husband to Kim, and director of constituent services for my congressional office. Additionally, Jeff was a loving father to Katherine Chelsey and Laura Leigh and supportive father-in-law to Andrew Smith and Austin Lowe.

Jeff was a proud Bowling Green, Kentucky, native. He graduated from Bowling Green High School in 1983 and attended Samford University School of Pharmacy where he graduated in 1989. As a prominent pharmacist and owner of two community pharmacies, Jeff served many patients in the local community and was always happy to help his customers. He was also a member of Broadway United Methodist Church.

Jeff's contagious laugh and kindness will be remembered by all who knew him. He loved the outdoors, but above all, he loved his family. In addition to his wife and two daughters, Jeff is survived by his parents, Charles Robert and Scottie Ann Halter; brother, Timothy Alan Halter; and many other loving family members. Jeff left a positive impact on our community and is greatly missed.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protect the sanctity of human life, especially the lives of the unborn.

The Hyde amendment has saved nearly 2½ million lives since its first inclusion in an appropriation bill in 1976.

This historically bipartisan amendment which prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars paying for abortion is supported by a majority of Americans.

H.R. 18, of which I am an original cosponsor, codifies the Hyde amendment and applies it to all government funding, cementing the protections for the most vulnerable Americans. This bill is called the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

CONGRATULATING MIKE McINTYRE

(Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Honorable Mike McIntyre, former Member of the House from 1997 to 2015